AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification as shown below.

[0012] The distribution network 20 includes the backbone and the edge network. An IP core provides the backbone network for content distribution. The Internet Protocol (IP) core interfaces with a variety of access networks and access network technologies. This includes Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) networks as well as open cable networks, wireless Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) networks, and other access networks as required.

[0014] The grid computing platform 24 controls components of the distribution network 20. The grid computing platform 24 is provided by network elements 21 executing grid applications. As described in further detail herein, the grid computing platform 24 is implemented using processor based network elements at a central office, at edges of the network, at the consumer location, etc. The grid applications control resources within the network including processing, bandwidth, and storage. The grid computing platform 24 provides the core applications platform for managing content and customer profiles including digital rights, subscriptions, billing, monitoring, etc.

[0016] The distribution network 20 may include ADSL networks, open access cable, satellite, terrestrial broadcast and/or a wireless DSL platform. The distribution network 20 may be implemented over another Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier's (ILEC's) ADSL network or over cable modem access. The network operator derives value from the video service and the video revenue stream, not from the underlying access network. Further, the network owner may only need access to the underlying network rather than own the network outright.

[0017] The grid computing platform 24 is implemented using distributed network elements such as controller 30 (e.g., set-top box), the consumer storage devices 28 (which may be incorporated within controller 30), network storage devices 22 (e.g., at central office, data centers) and/or other network elements 21 (e.g., processors at central office

locations or other locations). The processor-based network elements may be implemented using a variety of components such as personal computers, servers, set top boxes, field programmable logic arrays, application specific integrated circuits, etc. These processor-based network element(s) determine based on customer preference, customer viewing habits or other reasons when to store a video program on the consumer storage device 28. Processor-based network element(s) decide where to store content that is not resident on the user's local consumer storage device 28. The grid computing platform 24 understands the network relationship between users to optimize network resources when content must be distributed from one consumer's storage device 28 to another consumer's storage device 28.

[0019] FIG. 2 depicts an exemplary consumer network 26 in an embodiment of the invention. In one embodiment, the consumer network 26 is a residential home network, but similar networks may be employed in any setting where content is distributed. The consumer network 26 may be a wireless network that connects multiple devices using existing wireless network techniques (e.g., 802.11g/e/i, 802.11b, Home Phoneline (HPNA), Power Line Carrier, Ultra Wideband (UWB)). The controller 30 is coupled to the distribution network 20 and serves as a gateway device between the consumer network 26 and the distribution network 20.

[0021] The consumer network 26 includes a handheld user input device 46 and associated navigating software to command and control voice, data and video applications. The consumer network 26 has a common control platform for managing devices on the consumer network 26. This includes the ability to navigate through a video programming guide. A simple and functional user interface to content is one aspect of the content distribution service. This interface promotes watching pre-loaded content thereby reducing the bandwidth across the distribution network 20. The interface highlights the breadth of content available on demand to move the consumer away from valuing cable broadcast services based on the number of channels. The consumer selects content through user input device 46. The interface provides advanced flexible features such as pause, rewind, and fast forward that are not provided by the broadcasters without

a Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) upgrade. The user input device 46 provides such features to guide the consumer through the program guide.